

Official Magazine Newsletter of
the Kansas Army National Guard

June 2010

Volume 1, Issue 4

KANSAS SENTINEL



**1ST BATTALION, 161ST
FIELD ARTILLERY SHOOTS
CANNONS IN DOWNTOWN
WICHITA FOR RIVERFEST**



**Exclusive—
*A monthly
series—*
Our
Engineers in
Afghanistan!**



**There's a
New Chief
In Town!**

**Division
Goes for the
German
Gold!**



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On the cover:

Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers, Spc. Chester Shaw, loads the Howitzer while Spc. Matt Kasper fires the rounds needed for the 1812 Overture played in Wichita during the annual symphony's riverfest concert.

Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD



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Commander's Call!

I only have about two months left before I begin my assignment as the Division Commander of the 35th Infantry Division. Col. Lee Tafanelli, the commander of the 69th Troop Command, will be assuming my duties as the Assistant adjutant general-Army, and the commander of the Kansas Army National Guard. We will be working together during the upcoming months to make sure the transition goes smoothly.

I will continue to make unit visits over the next two months. This will include visits to annual training sites and to home station armories. My goal is to evaluate our level of training and continue to identify issues, and their solutions, that impact on soldier and unit readiness. These visits will also include an assessment of the results of the armory closing and consolidations.

Kansas is in the top five across the nation for our Military Operational Specialty (MOS) qualification level. I would like to congratulate all of you for that success. Our latest strength numbers though show we need to continue to focus on recruiting and retention. We had an assigned strength of 5,335 at the



***Brig. Gen. John Davoren
Assistant Adjutant General,
Kansas Land Component***

end of April but were at 5,324 at the end of May. Our strength goal for the end of September 2010 is 5,365.

Our focus on training and the great support by the Premobilization Training Assessment and Evaluation (PTAE) team continues to gain recognition for Kansas as units train at mobilization stations. The 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, was validated by the Fort Lewis team this week. Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), is working towards their final validation.

We continue to reduce the number of days a unit spends away from Kansas at a mobilization site. While the time is re-

duced from previous years, we won't be satisfied until we are able to deploy from and return to Kansas for all our mobilizations.

All of us must be committed to doing our best every day and looking for ways to improve every day in the future. I am proud that we have Kansas soldiers who continue to meet the needs of Kansas and nation.

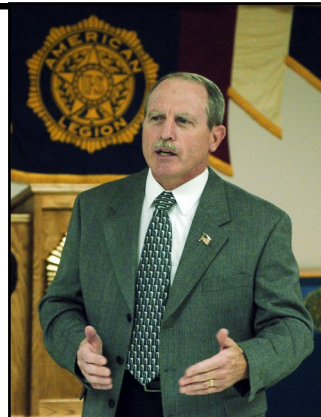
Attention all Kansas Army National Guard Members

Change of Command Ceremony

FOR: Brig. Gen. John Davoren steps down and hands his office to Col. Lee Tafanelli.

WHEN: Saturday, July 10, 2010, 9 a.m.

WHERE: Kansas National Guard Museum, Forbes Field, Topeka, Kan.



Brig. Gen. John Davoren has been very active in getting the Kansas Army National Guard's information out. Pictured at left, he speaks at the American Legion Post #1 in Topeka earlier this year.

What is the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA)?

The Army PDHRA Program is a part of the DoD's overall Force Health Protection Program. The screening is designed to address deployment-related physical and behavioral health needs and readjustment concerns of Army Soldiers 90-180 days after returning from a combat deployment.

The program demonstrates the Army's commitment to the long-term health and well-being of Soldiers and Department of the Army (DA) Civilians.

Why Complete the PDHRA?

For Yourself: The PDHRA empowers each of you to take control of your health. By identifying your health and readjustment concerns early, you can resolve problems that could -- if left unattended -- negatively affect your deployment status, career or life beyond service.

For Your Family: Your family's peace of mind is an important part of your own well-being. Some family members worry about how deployments can affect you. Therefore, your health concerns have a direct effect on your family. The PDHRA can aid you in identifying your health concerns and linking you to the appropriate resources.

For the Army: Deployment-related health concerns and problems may appear subtly over time and go unnoticed, even among unit leaders and fellow Soldiers. When you complete the PDHRA and answer candidly about your health status and concerns, the reassessment provides health care personnel with a comprehensive view of your health status. A healthy Soldier is a ready Soldier -- ready not only for deployment, but for life after deployment.

For the Future: By completing the PDHRA, you enable health care providers to initiate early medical care for your deployment health concerns. Early treatment can keep medical concerns from becoming chronic problems.

How do I complete the PDHRA?

There are three steps to completing the PDHRA including:



Resiliency Training (formerly known as Battlemind Training for PDHRA) - This training addresses issues commonly experienced due to deployment. This training is currently only offered by your Unit Commander. Contact your Unit Commander to arrange training.

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DD Form 2900 - This form helps document your health concerns, assessment and referrals.



Interview - After completing the DD Form 2900 Questionnaire, you will go over these questions with a medical professional. If necessary he/she will refer you to further medical attention.

Be a member of S.M.A.R.T.

The Special Military Active Retired Travel Club (S.M.A.R.T.) just completed its annual North Midwest (NMW) Regional muster at the Abilene, Kan., fair grounds. S.M.A.R.T. is a recreational vehicle [RV] social club for active and retired military veterans (and spouses), including National Guard and reservists from all the uniformed services.

This event was hosted by the Kansas Cavalry Chapter, which is a new chapter in the Fort Riley area, and Northern part of Kansas and has had as many as 30 RV rigs from four states attending the muster. There were many events during the muster. One event was a great tour of Fort Riley.

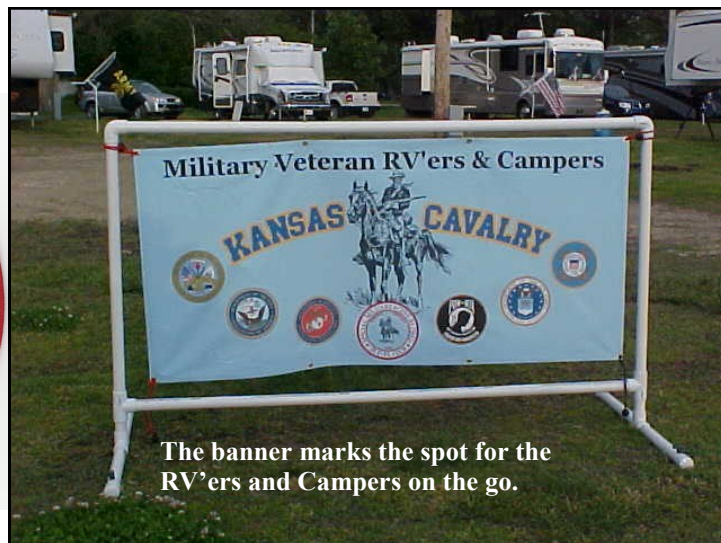
S.M.A.R.T. was founded in 1982. The club has 54 chapters across the U.S. that encompasses all 50 states and is now touted as one of the best kept secrets in the military.

The club's emphasis is on serving Veterans. It offers many things to the membership, to include golf, computer users chapter; and for travelers who just travel—married or single—owning an RV, fifth wheel or pop-up or just a tent, the chapters offer something for everyone. It even offers a Caravan across America and abroad.

The Regional muster is held each spring in one of the nine regions. The national muster is held each Fall. This year's 2010 National muster will be in Pennsylvania, and is scheduled from Sept. 6 to 12. The organization publishes a bi-monthly magazine and has a national website: www.smartving.net.

If anyone would be interested in more information, please contact:

Sherwin and Dorothy Stielow,
President of Kansas Cavalry
785-942-3275 or 785-483-1504 Cell



The banner marks the spot for the RV'ers and Campers on the go.



Campers (above photo) make one big happy family when they begin to convoy to fun areas. Meeting with friends during 'chow' (lower photo) is one of the benefits of traveling around and getting out.

Photos provided



Afghanistan and our Engineers



(above photo)

Spc. James Barclay assists Spc. Kevin Murphy III in the mounting of support beams for the trusses that filled the length of the frame of the Super B-Hut. Both Soldiers a part of 226th Engineer Company's 1st Platoon are deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

(right photo) *Spc. Jessica Sifuentes spreads out the concrete mix as it pours out from the chute down into the form. The Super B-Hut will house 16 troops from the 226th Engineer Company's second detachment that arrived in early March.*

Photos provided by 226th Unit Public Affairs representatives

The 226th hits the ground running!

A Kansas Sentinel monthly series by Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers with boots on the ground in Afghanistan!!!

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Richardson and Spc. Celia Prince, 226TH Engineer Company Unit Public Affairs Representative and Historian



Arriving in Afghanistan in early February 2010, the 226th Engineering Company's operations went into full swing without a moment's hesitation.

First to arrive on location (Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sharana) where they will live and work was 1st Platoon and they wasted no time starting their missions; for they already had their first project assigned and specifically designed with their unique abilities in mind. A 16-room Super B-Hut was to be constructed post haste.

The Company is composed of nearly 150 personnel and was expecting their detachment, 2nd Platoon, which was stationed at another FOB, to arrive within a month. Living quarters space would be growing slim

due to the surge of troops coming in and time was of the essence.

"We have multiple military occupational specialties (MOS) in our platoon; this project gave us the chance to cross-train Soldiers to become a more efficient platoon," Staff Sgt. Jeff Richardson said. Richardson is the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the jobsite and was commenting about why he felt the job suited his team perfectly.

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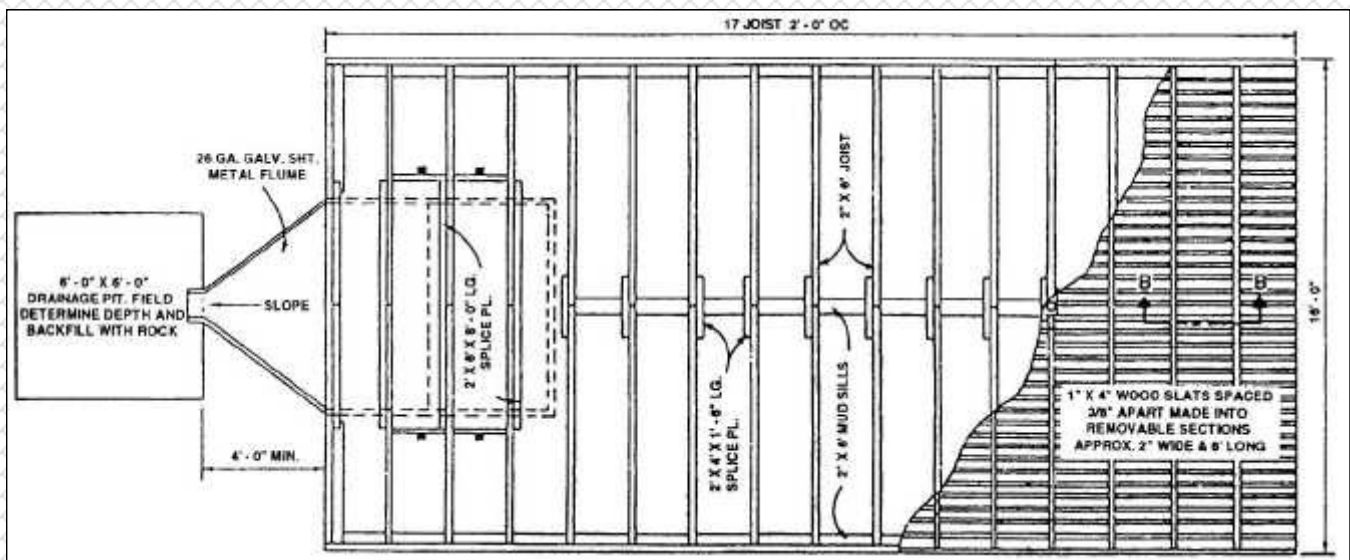
He said it may have been due to having previous experience as a supervisor on the civilian side where he ran teams of 15 people and completed reports on the day's progress that landed him the job while being in Afghanistan.

Supervising in Afghanistan, though it may be similar to back home, requires a lot more to the overseeing process than what he has been used to. Now, rather than just focusing on one area at a time, there are multiple areas being worked on where Richardson said he was in charge of the organization of teams and the overall safety and hours that each Soldier puts in.

"It was really an empowering experience having been multi-tasked with organizing each team; knowing who to put where and then knowing where each troop was working, keeping track of the bill of materials used, and meeting the timeline of getting the project complete," Richardson said.

While the concrete was being poured, Richardson set the rest of the troops from 1st Platoon to work by organizing the teams with their "one experienced Soldier" who cross-trained their individual teams by putting them to work on pre-fabricating the interior and exterior walls and doors.

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Page 8



What makes a SEA hut—When the 16 by 32 foot wood-frame tent is modified with a metal roof, extended rafters, and screened-in areas, it is called a Southeast Asia (SEA) hut. **(Above illustration)** The SEA hut was originally developed in Vietnam for use in tropical areas by U.S. troops for berthing; but, it can readily be adapted for any use in any situation. It is also known as a 'strongback' because of the roof and side-wall materials. The SEA hut is usually a standard prefabricated unit, but the design can be easily changed to fit local requirements, such as lengthening the floor or making the roof higher. The standard prefabrication of a SEA hut permits disassembly for movement to other locations when structures are needed rapidly.

What makes a Super B hut—A B-hut is a term used by service members and military contractors to refer to a type of semi-permanent wooden structure, used as a replacement for a tent, primarily in Afghanistan. Often referred to as a 'Hooch', the B-hut usually houses up to eight single persons, but can contain more if required. It is cheaply made of plywood and divided up into two, four, six or eight separate rooms, or left 'open' containing one large space. A typical B-hut usually has two entrances with a small air conditioning unit above each door. Each room usually has a window which the occupant usually nails shut for climate control purposes. These huts require constant maintenance and are only expected to last three to four years. A Super B-Hut can be larger, with concrete instead of wood floor, and have extra amenities.

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As the walls went up and the sheeting was applied to the exterior walls and roof, outside help came from an electrical team from 3rd Platoon and a sidewalk construction crew from 2nd Platoon who arrived at FOB Sharana as advanced party.

"I have built many items throughout my life, but nothing of this magnitude," said Richardson. "I'm really proud of everyone that worked on our site. This was our first job we have completed since we arrived in Sharana and I feel we did a tremendous job."

Approximately 30,000 Soldiers will be arriving in the area in the near future, and with the influx, the Super B-Hut which measures out to 18 feet by 72 feet is just one of many housing styles the 226th Engineer Company will be taking part in to help build up the FOB. When asked if this was to be his only supervising job on a Super B-Hut, Richardson said this is the only one he is responsible for so far, but now, for his next project he will be in charge of two 19 foot by 40 foot long SEA Huts.

"Eighteen actual work days from start to finish," Sgt. 1st Class M. Gregg Walls, 1st Platoon leader said about the finished product of the Super B-Hut. "The guys did an outstanding job, I'm looking forward to the next project."

Projects make way for junior Non-Commissioned Officers to lead

*By Celia Prince, 226th Engineer Company
Unit Public Affairs Representative and Historian*

During deployments, many Soldiers are able to let their valuable knowledge and assets shine.

One of the benefits a National Guard Soldier has is being able to be sought after as a resource due to the training they receive on the civilian side. Such was the case for Spc. Kyler Wellman, 1st Platoon, 3rd Squad of the 226th Engineer Company. He didn't start out as a concrete foreman for jobsites, at least not in the Army, but, for Wellman, this is nothing new.

As a civilian he works as a contractor, where he has remodeled kitchens and bathrooms, constructed room additions and built garages.

Wellman has had plenty of opportunity to teach

and delegate. This knowledge has carried over in his military career as a specialist, where his opinion and expertise has more than earned him the position as junior non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the concrete team.

His skill is evident. Within the first couple of days of the project, his concrete crew was able to learn what was expected of them quickly and work efficiently to lay out the foundation.

"This was their first time doing a project like this," Wellman said. "For Spc. Jessica Sifuentes, her dad does it, so she was pretty excited and the guys were fast learners too. I'm working with a good group, they're now able to arrive to the site and know what to do."

Wellman shares the responsibility of overseeing the mission with Staff Sgt. Eric Brodersen, NCOIC of the concrete team. Brodersen and his crew of four other members from 1st Platoon, 3rd Squad is: Spc. James Barclay, Spc. Vincent Gonzales, Spc. Jessica Sifuentes and Spc. Kyle Taylor. They began their first project on Feb. 20, 2010 on jobsite that was to become the barracks for 16 Soldiers of the 226th Engineering Company's 2nd Platoon.

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Spc. Kyler Wellman checks the levelness of the ground as he and his team work on the concrete for the foundation of the Super B-Hut project tasked to the 226th Engineer Company's 1st Platoon.

Photo by Spc. Celia Prince, 226th Engineer Company



(left photo) The concrete team works with local nationals as they pour **(right photo)** the mix for the foundation of the 16 room Super B-Hut project in late February 2010.

Photos by
Celia Prince,
226th Engineer
Company



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The pouring technique is a quick and easy process to learn and with the help of his team, Wellman is able to get a form set and poured and in a matter of just a couple of days.

The concrete mix is unlike the quality Wellman is accustomed to in the Kansas. In Afghanistan, the consistency can vary from very wet to dry, depending on the arrival of the next truck. The consistency is a key factor in progress of the setting of the concrete. For instance, if the mix takes longer to dry, it would also require more time to surface.

According to the consistency of the mix, it determines what tools will be used to smooth out the surface. Wellman said there were days where the power trowel wasn't able to be used and due to the different consistencies being poured on one pad and the wetness of the mix being used, a screed tool broke one day.

These adjustments weren't setbacks though; they were ideas emerging for the next project. Out of it, the concrete team learned what would benefit them more in the removal of air bubbles, how large the forms will be needed for the next pour and what other tools to request.

On their second project, they were tasked to lay out four forms running 40 feet by 90 feet long. As they began their second day, a Seabee of the Navy



The team **(left photo)** is made up of primarily four members from 1st Platoon, 226th Engineer Company also gets help from other Soldiers working out at the Super B-Hut jobsite.

approached asking if they would like to have some extra hands helping them saying that his guys were eager to work and were waiting on tools to arrive, so they'd like to be put to work.

"We ran into a problem where we only had five guys one day, with concrete it's always better to have extra people than not enough," Wellman said.

Thus began the collaboration of the Navy Seabees working with the concrete team, as well as other projects like the trusses being prepped for the billeting SEA Huts. The time the Seabees spent helping, helped the work day immensely and Wellman said was "nice having the experience and more hands" on the jobsite.

With five projects under their belts and plenty more ahead, it's foreseeable that with Wellman's expertise and crew of five, the concrete crew will be requested again soon.

Next Month's Series—

*'My first couple of days in Afghanistan' and
'The Unit acclimates to another country'—*

Manuscript closer to publication

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

It was good news for a change for Lt. Col. Kyle Ferlemann about his manuscript. The Combat Studies Institute (CSI) element of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center-Knowledge (CAC) is looking at the manuscript to decide whether to publish it or not.

Of course, they say it will be up to six months before they waded through all the other manuscripts and make a decision—but that doesn't matter to Ferlemann—he's just happy that someone is finally looking seriously at publishing his work.

"I wrote this book (which is still untitled) in 2004 as I was working with the Emergency Management Operations Center (now called the Joint Operations Center) and dealing with my studies in college when I was pursuing my Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Washburn University," said Ferlemann.

The book (Military, Non-Fiction—43,251 words) is not for everyone, and it is not light reading—but rather, has select information for a select audience.

"This is for emergency response personnel. The book is written with a military viewpoint in application in military skill sets in emergency response situations," admits Ferlemann.

Specifically, it's about situations of what the U.S. Army is trained to do and what we expect them to do in case of a domestic emergency.

"This book shows an inherent risk," he says. "It's about applying 'combat power' to domestic situations—and this is difficult when a military skill (or mind set) doesn't match a civilian skill set."

The book's purpose is to discuss the role of the United States military within the mission of domestic homeland security and investigate the legal considerations and force structures involved in the application of military power within the borders of the United States of America.

It provides an examination of the formative documents of the U.S. and the attitudes of the Founding Fathers which inspired their vision for how the U.S. Armed Forces would interact with the civilian population of the country.

Current civil and military capabilities are discussed in relation to modern methods of command and control and the level to which tactics, techniques, and equipment have developed to meet current require-

ments.

Specifically addressed are historical examples of proper and improper military self-perception and attitude in the application of military force in the support of civilian law enforcement and the hazards of using combat power against the population of the United States of America.

Ferlemann likes to use examples to prove his ideas. "Take General Frederick N. Funston, who, in 1906, was in command of the Presidio of San Francisco when the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake hit," said Ferlemann.

Funston took command of the city, although martial law was never officially declared, and directed the dynamiting of buildings to create fire-breaks to stop the out-of-control burning of the city. Funston's actions were later assessed with a mixture of criticism and praise. Some objected that he far exceeded his authority and acted contrary to military law, while others hailed him as a hero who did what was necessary in the face of the disaster.

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Lt. Col. Kyle Ferlemann says that by using examples of good and bad decisions throughout history, his manuscript paints a very good picture on how military forces can work effectively with civilian authorities when dealing with local, state or national emergencies.



Lt. Col. Kyle Ferlemann uses example of how the Kansas National Guard is set up to assist civilian authorities in Kansas and throughout the United States if any emergencies arise.

clear that the families were taken care of, then those local authorities could concentrate on the emergency at hand and not worry about their loved ones. This allowed him to have a centralized, civilian-ran, authority that allowed him to continue on with his work.

If it sounds like dry reading to you, then perhaps this book is not for you, which up to now, is what publishers have been saying all along—that the book would have too few of a following and qualified readers.

But Ferlemann has been undaunted for the last six years, always pushing, with his wife of nearly 21 years, Pamela, and his 16-year-old daughter, for the success of the book.

“If the CSI and CAC is looking to publish it, maybe then my research can get out to those that need it,” said Ferlemann.

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“But what he did was important of how he did it,” says Ferlemann, “he began by setting up tents for the mayor of San Francisco, the police, the fire departments, their families and fed them all. As he made it



Excerpt from the manuscript—Chapter 3, U.S. Military Development

The development of the U.S. Armed Forces has been influenced by two major factors: reluctance and assumption. America’s reluctance to use military power outside of our national borders and the hesitation of the Congress to deploy military forces within the borders of the United States resulted in a military that was unable to prepare for future conflicts both foreign and domestic. The prevailing attitude was not only that the nation did not need military power to keep the peace but also that the nation did not need military power in times of peace. The second factor in the development of the U.S. Armed Forces was the assumption that geographic location was enough to defend the United States from invasion. An examination of the first aspect of reluctance will show how the military was kept from acquiring the skills and attitudes required to work effectively with the non-military elements of government other than the federal chain of command.

Early reluctance about the application of military power had a profound effect on how the U. S. Armed Forces were allowed to operate. The evolution of the Armed Forces, in respect to domestic deployment, has been guided by the intent that the military should not be active within the arena of civil control. Despite the declared mission of civil control within the Constitution, “execute the Laws of the Union,” the military has concentrated almost solely on training for combat situations and neglected to acquire the civil-military relations skills required to successfully conduct domestic operations. This has made some situations problematic when the military was called upon to restore order within the borders of the United States. A better understanding of how the U.S. military succeeded, or failed, in the realm of Homeland Security can be gained by examining the role they have taken in American history and the techniques they used to conduct their assigned missions.

1-161 FA Fires upon Wichita

This Year's Riverfestival in Wichita is a success due to the 1-161 Field Artillery Battalion's Part—

By Major Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Admiral Wind Wagon Smith, AKA Devin Hansen, gets to fire one of the cannons during the VIP Shoot that occurred after the night's activities were finished. Three other VIP's were randomly chosen to fire the cannons. They were father and son team J. Harvey and Joel Koehn, and Becky Filliatrequest. They each had several minutes of 'train-up' time to complete in order to be able to fire the cannon safely.

Photos by
Maj. Mike Wallace,
105th MPAD

Mist was falling with the ever looming threat of heavier rains, but the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery was undaunted in performing their mission—firing the 16 rounds required by the City of Wichita during the Wichita Symphony's annual Riverfest performance of Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "The Year 1812, Festival Overture in E flat major, Op. 49"—otherwise known to the world as "The 1812 Overture".

The logistics of safety and precision in placement of

the shots require either well-drilled military crews using modern cannons, or the use of 16 pieces of muzzle-loading artillery, since any reloading schemes to attain the 16 shots or even a semblance of them in the two minute time span involved makes safety and precision impossible with 1800s artillery. Time lag alone precludes implementation of cues for the shots for 1812-era field pieces.

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(above photo) It's a family event. Staff Sgt. Robert Longacre, his wife, Cynthia, and their two children, take a moment on the cannon. **(right photo, from left)** Master Gunner Sgt. 1st Class Carline Long checks the ammo count with Chief of Gun One, Sgt. Heath Bengé and Chief of Gun Four, Staff Sgt. Robert Longacre.





(left photo) Spc. Chester Shaw readies the charges needed for the firing of the cannons. **(above photo)** Numerous dry runs are practiced to ensure safety and timing needed to accomplish a flawless mission during the event.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

From RIVERFEST, Page 12

So the battalion uses the M1A6 75-mm pack howitzer. The M1A6 75mm Pack Howitzer has been in service with the U.S. military since the years following World War I. The relatively light weight and portable towed gun has been an effective weapon for paratroopers and other highly mobile, rapid response units. It is easy to transport, man, and shoot, and will take the blank cartridges needed for such a performance.

With the logistics of firing the cannons solved, the gun crews worked on their next big challenge—timing!

Sgt. 1st Class Carl Long was the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the firing detail, and he had the gun crews out drilling every step of their mission during the day so they could perform flawlessly during the night's performance.

"Each gun has three Soldiers on it," said Long. "You have the Gun Chief (who supervises the gun and ensures safety and proper procedures), the Assistant Gunner (who loads the charges), and the Gunner (who actually fires the weapon)."

Overture's Debut

The 1812 overture debuted in the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow on Aug. 20, 1882, in the Gregorian calendar (the date in the Julian calendar was Aug. 8). The overture is best known for its climactic volley of cannon fire and ringing chimes.

On his 1891 visit to the United States, Tchaikovsky conducted the piece at the dedication of Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The Gunner's the trigger man," said Long. "He's key when it comes to timing, like the one volley we fired at the end of the national anthem, all four pieces fire in synchronization with each other—all precisely at the same time. You don't want to have the guns go off one at a time like a bunch of popcorn. This is a very critical mission, that we've practiced at least ten times for."

Synched with the orchestra, guns fire at the exact moment when needed. A Wichita Symphony representative is positioned with Sgt. 1st Class Long and is in radio contact—watching the musical score very carefully. He lets the NCOIC know when it is time to signal each gun for firing.

"Get ready," says the symphony representative.

"Gun One, get ready" yells Long, illuminating a signal light in the dark night and raising it over his head.

"Ready," echoes the gun one chief, still watching his crew closely to make sure that all safety precautions have been made.

"Now," says the representative.

"Fire!" Says Long as he brings the light down and points it at the gun one section.

The cannon fires at the precise time it was supposed to, and the process is repeated for the other 15 rounds, each gun illuminating the night with its muzzle blast.

Lane been doing it three times over 10 years, Battery C has done it in the past but Higher Headquarters Company did it this year.

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Brothers Spc. Tyler Wing and Spc. Sean Wing worked the event. Tyler is a cannon crewmember for the fourth gun and has fired the cannons at the Riverfest at least six other times.

Sean works in fire direction control but will soon be a cannon crewmember.

They both agree that the highlight of the riverfestival is during the symphony's performance as the cannons begin to shoot. "The great part is when you are shooting and the crowd goes wild. The fireworks are bursting over your head and people are cheering with each cannon blast," said both Wing brothers.

This year's firing team—

The year's team was composed of Master Gunner, Sgt. 1st Class Carline Long; chief of gun one, Sgt. Heath Bengé; chief of gun two, Spc. Sean Wing; chief of gun three, Spc. James Bannon; chief of gun four, Staff Sgt. Robert Longacre; and the gun crewmembers, Army Specialists Allan Earles, Matt Kasper, Patrick Lane, Joel Lara, Colt Pfautz, Chester Shaw, Kale Campbell and Tyler Wing.



(top left photo, left) Sgt. 1st Class Carl Long gives direction to the gun crews before they begin the arduous drill involved in ensuring safety during firing the cannons. (top right photo) A gun crew hits their firing time. (bottom left photo) Amidst fireworks flares and residue falling on them, the gun crews quickly move the M1A6 75-mm Pack Howitzers to the Palletized Loading System (PLS) Truck that moves the cannons from the unit to where they are needed. (bottom right photo) The overture is over, and the members of the detail load up the cannons and ready to return to the unit and clean the howitzers.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD



Inspector General retires

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

The Inspector General for the Kansas Army National Guard, Col. Ron Robinson, recently retired after 34 years of service. According to his wishes, only a small function was held for him in his office where friends and co-workers wished him well.

Robinson spoke about his job as the inspector general. "We've spent too many hours together," he said about his staff, "not to enjoy what we do—and that is to take care of Soldiers."

"I hope my time here has been like fingerprints on a glass. Over time you can see them better, the good impressions made by me can be concentrated on by my replacements. My legacy is my people."

Robinson also spoke about his career. "When I was in the ninth grade, I dreamed of Army trucks. I was in those trucks and I was someplace that I've never been before so I knew then that it was right for me to pursue an Army career, but to be honest, I never thought that I would have spent 34 years in the military. I'm just proud to have served and made the Kansas National Guard a better place for everyone.

Maj. Jerritt Curtis is the acting Inspector General for Kansas until a permanent replacement is found.



Col. Ron Robinson is presented a certificate, flag and Commander coins from Brig. Gen. John Davoren, assistant adjutant general-Army, during the ceremony.

Photo by Jane Welch, State Public Affairs

Kempel earns Air Force Commendation

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

The Adjutant General of Kansas, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, announced during a ceremony on June 5, that he was extra pleased to award the Air Force Commendation Medal to Kansas Army National Guard Soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Julie Kempel for her efforts as the Ground Liaison Detachment Officer for the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

According to Kempel, her job mainly was to brief aircrews before their missions about what to expect on what was happening on the ground that they were to fly over.

The Commander of the United States Air Force Central Command, Lt. Gen. Gilmary M. Hostage III said that Kempel enabled situational awareness of the ground commander's intent and scheme of maneuver.

"Her actions greatly enhanced the B-1 Bomber's crew's ability to understand land force operations," Gilmary said.

Kempel is from Lyndon, Kan., and has a daughter, Jasmine (11).



(above) Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting pins on the Air Force Commendation to Sgt. 1st Class Julie Kempel (left). Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace

GOING FOR GOLD

Bundeswehr Style

By Maj. Michael Howell
35th Infantry Division Logistics Officer

As winter snows faded away, and warmer temperatures arrived at Fort Leavenworth, two officers from the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas National Guard, eagerly accepted the challenge to train for and take the German Armed Forces Military Proficiency Badge test conducted in early April of 2010.

Maj. William “Shep” Woodard, Deputy Civilian and Military Operations Officer, and Capt. Robert Sands, Assistant Operations and Training Officer, found themselves participating in several challenging physical feats ranging from swimming, marksmanship, track and field, and a seven and a half mile road march wearing a 35 pound rucksack on their backs.

There are three levels of the proficiency badge—Silver, Bronze and Gold. A German Sergeant Major liaison supervised all of the testing at Fort Leavenworth to ensure the participants merited the award, if earned, through the most stringent tests.

The testing lasted for most of the week, culminating with the challenge of the road march. Soldiers who successfully completed the arduous events were awarded their medals during a ceremony.

While participating in the events, 49-year old Woodard would often bring up the topic of “aged participants”. He frequently reminded the younger athletes, he was the oldest in the group. Although his age was a factor, it in no way prevented him from capturing the gold medal.

Sands advised he has wanted to earn the badge for a while, but the opportunity never presented itself. When it did, he immediately asked his supervisor if he could attempt it. Sands stated, “on paper the event standards don’t seem that hard, but anyone wanting to participate should be forewarned! The whole event was much more difficult than I anticipated!”

“Both officers stand as an example to all Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers,” remarked Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson, Commander of the 35th ID. “The Kansas Army National Guard should be proud to have officers such as this leading our Citizen Soldiers.”



Capt. Robert Sands (above) and Maj. William “Shep” Woodard (below) are awarded their Gold Proficiency Badges by a German Sergeant Major.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Steven Collins



DEFINITION:

The **German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency** (German: *Das Abzeichen für Leistungen im Truppendienst*) is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The decoration is awarded to all German Soldiers. Allied soldiers may also be awarded the badge. Any rank may be awarded and wear the badge.

In the United States military, the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency is one of the few approved foreign awards, and is one of the most sought after awards to achieve. But authorization and manner of wear is based on that nation's uniform regulations.

35th Infantry Division is 'Home on the Range'

By 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

At 5 a.m. on a Saturday morning, 1st Sgt. Antonio Slaughter awakened 35 Infantry Division (35th ID) enlisted Soldiers to his words of, "get up, damn it, I love ya!"

With that, soldiers sprang from their beds to the excitement of individual weapons qualification at the Great Plains Joint Training Center at the Salina, Kan. training site.

The first part of the training was with the Fire Arms Training System (FATS). Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Sutton noted the significance of training with the FATS provided realistic weapons simulation training prior to the individual weapons qualification weekend. Fire Arms Training and Preliminary Marksman Instruction (PMI) in months prior to the three day drill "helped bring more emphasis on weapons training", he said.

"People seemed confident and happy after the zero range...they were not rushed" noted Chief Warrant Officer 5 Keith Rogers, commenting on Soldier morale at the firing range.

Sgt. Maj. John Conover, Division Training and Operations NCOIC said the weekend will "set [soldiers] up for success, give them a taste of success and it will carry over into other areas of being a soldier."

The three-day drill allowed Soldiers to proceed from the zero range on Friday to the qualifying range on Saturday with ample time to accomplish the necessary training and return to home station on the third day.

Roll-Over Training

Once soldiers qualified with their weapons, they proceeded to High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle

(HMMWV or HUMVEE) Egress Assistance Training (HEAT), as well as a short Combat Casualty Care (CCC) course conducted by 35th ID medical staff.

According to a study conducted by the Operational Survivability Analysis Branch, at Fort Rucker, Ala., there were 789 individuals injured with 1,167 sustained injuries from July 1989 to October 2007 in HMMWV rollover accidents. HEAT training allows soldiers to experience a simulated HUMVEE rollover, as well as some tools to survive HUMVEE rollover situations.

Combat Casualty Care helps soldiers to assess and provide a quick response to problems with bleeding, breathing, and broken bones, as well as training for calling in a nine-line Medical Evacuation. The 35 ID surgeon staff screened soldiers to ensure they were medically fit to participate in the rigorous drill before it began. Higher Headquarters Detachment Company Commander, Capt. Todd Lavery also conducted a risk assessment prior to the training.

Sgt. Kevin Farlow, an Assistant HEAT Trainer noted, "Training can be life-saving...as there is no 'rear' in the current combat environment."

Various soldiers noted how smooth everything went over the weekend since people simply did what they were supposed to do.



35th Infantry Division Soldiers participate in the Combat Casualty Care (CCC) course during their three days at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (left photo). The Soldiers also trained in the HEAT trainer (above photo) to learn how to better survive a potential vehicle rollover. From July 1989 to October 2007, there were 1,167 sustained injuries with 789 personnel injured in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Steven Collins

Aviation Unit deploys to Iraq



Kansas Aviation unit will provide aeromedical evacuation support

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Approximately 55 members of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), Kansas Army National Guard, were honored during a ceremony on Thurs-



Brig. Gen. John Davoren spoke and thanked the Soldiers for their commitment on this deployment.

day, May 13, as they deployed for a year-long mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Speakers for the event were Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson, Brig. Gen. John Davoren, assistant adjutant general-Army, Lt. Col. David Leger, the battalion com-

mander for the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation and Capt. Kevin Kennedy, the commander for Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation.

Parkinson, addressing the nearly full Lee Arena auditorium at Washburn University wished the unit well and acknowledged that the Kansas National Guard carries a much greater mission throughout the country.

"This unit will make an enormous difference," said Parkinson. "There is opportunity here and you all can make a difference in the chaos that is there."

Parkinson had everyone in the auditorium stand and give a standing ovation of thanks to the unit members and said, "you Kansas Guard members who risk your lives for the betterment of humanity are the real heroes, and deserve mine and everyone thanks."

Davoren identified the sacrifice of the family members and thanked them all while identifying them as part of the Kansas National Guard team.

See AVIATION, Page 19



Distinguished guests and speakers (top photo, from left) Kansas Governor, Mark Parkinson; Brig. Gen. John Davoren, assistant adjutant general-Army; Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Haworth, state command sergeant major; Command Sgt. Major John Ryan, command sergeant major for Kansas Army National Guard; Col. Lee Tafarielli, commander of 69th Troop Command; Command Sgt. Maj. James Moberly, command sergeant major for 69th Troop Command; and Lt. Col. David Leger, the battalion commander for the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

From AVIATION, Page 18

“It is not only the men and women in uniform who support our nation,” said Davoren. “Our service is enhanced by the unwavering support of our families and communities who see their loved ones and friends daily answer our nation’s call.”

“Today’s Soldiers are people who serve during extraordinary circumstances. They know the true meaning of courage and family. This ceremony to honor our men and women in uniform is a tribute to their devotion to duty and your support for them,” Davoren said.

Lt. Col. David Leger, battalion commander for the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation had few, but heartfelt words for the Soldiers in his battalion.

“I want to thank you all for your hard work,” he said. “Each of you have dedicated much time and effort into making sure this mission is a success. I know that you all will do your best. I wish you well—Dust Off!”

Capt. Kevin Kennedy company commander for Company G, 2-135th Aviation Regiment, spoke last.

“This unit has the best Soldiers a leader could ask for, each one of



(top middle photo) Lt. Col. David Leger said he knew the unit would do their best while Capt. Kevin Kennedy **(top right photo)** says that the Soldiers in the unit are the best. He accepts a certificate from Governor Parkinson **(left)**.



them, true professionals in their assigned positions,” Kennedy stated with pride.

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Capt. Kevin Kennedy checks out his company before the ceremonies begin.

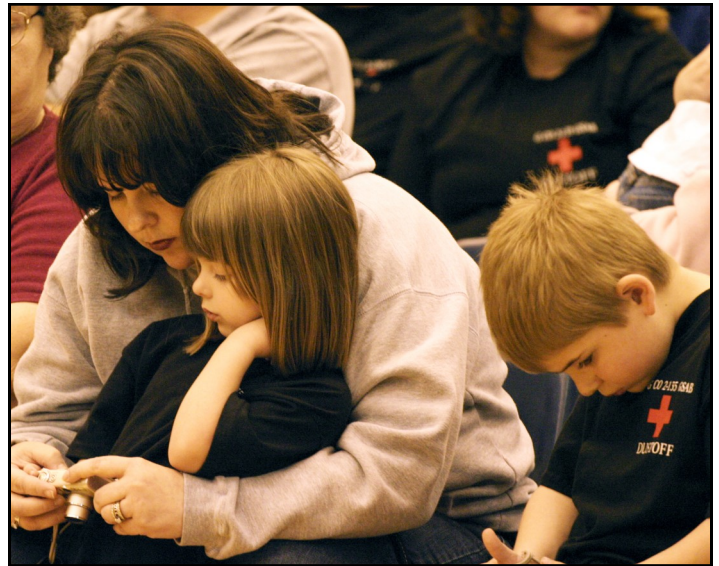
From AVIATION, Page 19

“Your loved ones are in good hands,” he assured the family members and friends attending the event, “because they are in each other’s hands. They will care for, watch over and look out for one another.”

“We will depart for our mission during what will be an historical moment in our nation’s history and the War on Terror. The end of one era, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the beginning of a new one, Operation New Dawn,” Kennedy continued.

“This is one of the most rewarding and important missions a Soldier could ask for. Every radio transmission received, every wrench turned, every gallon pumped and every hour flown will be for one solitary purpose—to save American lives,” he said.

The ceremony ended and the Soldiers were released. The Topeka unit is now in Fort Hood, Texas, for additional mission-specific training before going on to Iraq. Their mission will consist of providing aeromedical evacuation support within the division and corps under the command and control of the General Support Aviation Battalion. They will also be providing rapid evacuation and movement of patients while giving en-route care to higher levels of medical treatment and movement of medical person-



The Family is part of the team—

(above) Amber Harvey, wife of Sgt. Brian Harvey, attended the ceremony with their children, Deana (5) and William (6).

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

nel and accompanying medical equipment and supplies consistent with evacuation priorities and operational considerations to and from points as far forward as possible.



(top left photo) Chief Warrant Officer 3 Todd Wilson and his wife Stephanie share a last minute together before leaving for Texas. (second from left photo) Stephanie Ingmire, wife of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew Ingmire, watches their son, Chandler, play with a model helicopter that his dad will be working with. (second from right photo) Elijah Barnett (6), son of Gary and Crystal Barnett, gives a salute to their friend who’s deploying, Levi Lister. (top right photo) Chief Warrant Officer 4 Leo Blasi carries his grandson, Raziel into the auditorium to attend the ceremonies.

Heartland Military Day

June 5, 2010, at Heartland Park, Topeka, Kan. A World War II remembrance with re-enactments and displays.

A Photo Highlight
By Lt. Col.
Rex Johnson,
Joint Force
Headquarters Public
Affairs

Roger Aeschliman of Topeka (right) as Gen. George Patton speaks with spectators at the Heartland Military Days.



US troops take fighting positions in preparation for battle with German soldiers. (left) Two participants dressed as German SS soldiers prepare for the upcoming battle simulation. (lower left) Although several participants play the role of US troops, others chose to be the opposing force. According to one participant, "this is your chance to be the bad guy."



Greg Irwin (bottom left)(front) participates as a US Army First Lieutenant while Robert Cunningham follows behind wearing a US Army Sergeant's uniform. Both men are participating as members of the 101st Airborne, 506 Dog Company as part of the WWII re-enactment for Heartland Military Day on June 5 at Forbes Field. Rick McClellan wears the 35th ID patch as part of the WWII re-enactment at the Heartland Military Day event at Forbes Field on June 5. (bottom middle)

Ken Gott (Fort Leavenworth) and Kara Partridge (Emporia) pose in front of a replica of a Type 32 Kübelwagen. The Kübelwagen (short for Kübelsitzwagen, meaning "bucket seat car") was a military vehicle built by Volkswagen during World War II.



Charles Dugan participates as a gunner for the cannons used during the day. Equipment from every era of our nation's history was present.



Vasquez is new 'Chief' in town

Stepping up to take over for retiring Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mark Jensen as he readies for retirement is Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector A. Vasquez.

Vasquez will take over the roll as the Command Chief Warrant officer for the Kansas National Guard. It will be his responsibility to act as an advisor to the Adjutant General on all policy and personnel matters as they relate to warrant officer education, career management and warrant officer recruiting.

He will also act as the liaison for warrant officer issues between the state and the National Guard Bureau and the active Army warrant officer branch, as well as associated warrant officer schools. He will be a member of the Warrant Officer Advisory Committee at the national level, which acts as an advisory group to the chief and director of the National Guard Bureau.

Vasquez is looking forward to the job. "It's been an honor to be selected for this position," he said.

He knows the job requires that he increases awareness of warrant officer needs. "It's important to continue the development of warrant officers in the state," Vasquez said.

"I want to increase the awareness and participants for the warrant officer candidate school in Salina," he said.

Vasquez has acted as an instructor at the school and he says that the state needs to increase the manning strength of warrant officers in the state. He says that the manning strength in the state right now is around 70 percent and that there are numerous slots available for anyone that is interested in becoming a warrant officer.

Vasquez has been in the Guard for 32 years and has served on three deployments. His first deployment in 1996 took him to Bosnia where he was part of the counterfire battery (Battery E, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery—the first field artillery National Guard deployment since Vietnam) that was situated near 'Sniper Alley' in Sarajevo.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hector A. Vasquez

Because of his unit's performance, manufacturers of the counterfire radars adopted his maintenance program for the radars. The programs were the only ones constantly performed, getting the unit named the best radar unit in the U.S. Army.

He also served in Mosul, Iraq from 2004-2005 and Kosovo in 2007-2008.

He joined the National Guard to attain and help pay for an education in electronics. "But I had no idea then that I would

stay so long in the Guard," Vasquez says.

The 1977 Topeka Highland Park High School graduate has a Bachelor in science degree in interdisciplinary management from Kansas State University and loves to play all types of sports.

He has been married to his wife, Gerri for 28 years and they have two children, Whitney (23) and Rene (20).

Marriage Enrichment Retreat

July 16-18

Hyatt Regency Hotel—Downtown
400 West Waterman, Wichita, Kan.

Register both Soldier and spouse for this event at:
www.strongbonds.org or by calling (785) 274-1514.

Registration ends Noon, June 25.

Married couples only event—no childcare available.

Travel/mileage expenses reimbursed.

Retreat will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday evening and
conclude by noon on Sunday.

Limited to the first 45 couples.

Next Month—

- ◆ **Brig. Gen. Davoren takes new position**
- ◆ **Meet the new ATAG**
- ◆ **Maj. Gen. Wayne Pierson retires**
- ◆ **Extreme Fighters**

Poker Run Highlights

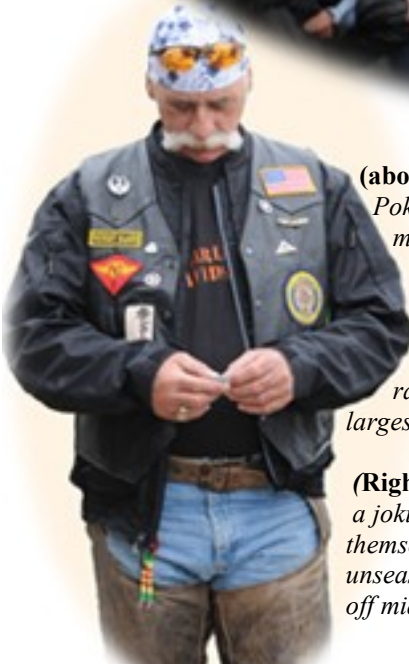
Photo Montage by
Sgt. 1st Class
Phillip Witzke,
105th MPAD



(left, from left)
Lt. Col.
Scott Henry and
D.C. Hannah ride
the 'concrete ribbon'
highways on the
poker run. (right, from left)
Adjutant General
Tod M. Bunting
and Lt. Col.
Scott Henry
affix the American
flag to Henry's
motorcycle.



(above photo) Participants of the Kansas National Guard Museum Poker Run pose for a group shot before mounting their motorcycles for the day's ride.



(Left) Retired State Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rodina checks his raffle tickets during the drawing held prior to departing the museum. Donated items were raffled as a fundraiser during the Poker Run. The run is one of the museum's largest fund raisers of the year.

(Right) Group leader and safety observer D.C. Hannah makes a joking face in regard to the weather as riders begin to ready themselves for the wet weather. This year's event was marked by unseasonal cold weather and rain, causing the ride to be called off mid-way due to poor weather conditions and heavy rain.



Upcoming Events

JUNE

- 17 iPERMS training at the South Armory (Forbes Field, Topeka) in Room 231, 1 p.m.
- 18 Change of Command for 73rd Civil Support Team, Building 2003, Forbes Field, Topeka, 9 a.m.
- 18 Retirement ceremony for Lt. Col. Daniel Ruiz, Forbes Field, Topeka, 73rd CST (WMD) Bldg. #2003, noon.
- 18 Retirement recognition for Lt. Col. Gloria Sherman. USPFO Break Room, Topeka, 1-3 p.m.
- 25 Southern Afghanistan Advisor Team Welcome Home and Freedom Salute Ceremony at the Courtyard Marriott, 7 p.m. *(for more information, contact Maj. John Tucker at 620-728-4202)*

JULY

- 9-10 Joint Task Force Staff Training Course
- 10 Change of Command for ATAG, Kansas National Guard Museum, Forbes Field, 9 a.m.
- 11 287th Sustainment Brigade Change of Command Ceremony, South Riverside Park, Wichita, Kan., 10 a.m.
- 11 778th Transportation Company Poker Run and area Director's Picnic. American Legion Post 180, 1011 Kansas, Great Bend. Registration 9 a.m. *For more information call Chris Krueger 620-792-9763, Lonnie Willard 620-797-0922 or Terry Harris 620-910-7998.*

JULY

- 11-18 Nebraska National Guard CERF-P Validation at Crisis City, Salina.
- 15-16 NGB/J7 Joint training System Specialist State Visit.
- 17-18 Leadership Retention Class, Eckert Hall, KSRTI, Salina, Kan.
- 24 Change of Command 635th RSG, Custer Hill Parade Field, Fort Riley. 1 p.m. *RSVP by June 30, to Maj. John Tucker, 1-620-728-4202.*

AUGUST

- 6-8 Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Champion Rifle-Pistol Match *(For more information, contact Staff Sgt. David Salinas, 785-608-3685)*
- 10-11 Strategic Planning Workshop, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center (South Armory), Room #231.
- 14 OCS Graduation at Salina
- 16-20 Kansas National Guard Museum Conference at the Liberty Memorial Museum in Kansas City.
- 21-13 National Guard Association Conference in Austin, Texas

SEPTEMBER

- 14-17 NGB/J7 Joint training System Specialist State Visit
- 25 HQ, 891st Engineer Regimental Ball and Golf Tourney—Coffeyville Community College, 400 W. 11th St. *For more information contact Capt. Sean Linn, 620-365-4021 or sean.linn@us.army.mil*

Region Wide Job Fair

On Wednesday, June 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ritz Charles Hotel, 9000 W. 137th St., Overland Park, Kan., there will be a Region Wide Job Fair, sponsored by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The Job Fair will enable you to network with employers who support Guard

and Reserve Soldiers through their hiring practices, as well as promote yourself in a public forum. Attendees should bring multiple copies of their resume.

For more information, contact Rick Storm at: Rick.Storm@us.army.mil or call 316-681-1759 X 1453.